elaborated by the mucous membrane which is the seat of gonorrhœa. The author states, further that whilst puerperal pelvic cellulitis with suppuration, when communicating with the cavity of the peritoneum causes general peritonitis, because the pus contains pyogenic staphylococci, the pus of a gonorrhœa which escapes into the same cavity from the Fallopian tubes only produces a local inflammation. Lastly, some clinical observations seem to show that in the etiology of localized tuberculosis of the genital organs, gonorrhœal infection plays a certain role, and gonorrhœal rheumatism which has been attributed to the gonococcus, should in the author's opinion be regarded as the result of mixed infection, inasmuch as pyogenic microbes have been detected in the affected joints.—*Le Bulletin Medical*, Dec. 25, 1887.

H. PERCY DUNN (London).

GENERAL SURGERY.

I. Peat-Moss as a Dressing. By Dr. N. N. JAKIMOVITCH (St. Petersburg, Russia).—The author has subjected to a macroscopical, microscopical and bacteriological examination a specimen of commercial Russian peat-moss. The specimen represented a fairly firm, but extremely light and voluminous mass of a light brown color. It proved to consist mainly of tiny stems of several Russian species of the *sphagnum*. Besides there were found many foreign detritus-like admixtures, such as minute fragments of shrubs, disintegrated roots, broken leaflets of various plants, etc. Under the microscope there were seen, besides the *sphagnum's* leaflets and branches, various vegetable fibres of an undeterminable origin, numberless big spores of mould-fungi, and microbes of varying kind and size. A series of bacteriological experiments, with due sterilizing precautions, showed that this would-be "aseptic" dressing material contained masses of mould fungi of several sorts, including the *penicillium glaucum*, and at least three different species of large and small micrococci, one of which formed point-like slightly opalescent, the other somewhat larger, greyish white, colonies on meat peptone jelly. Their pure cultures, grown on agar-agar and jelly gave nail-like colonies with a white smooth head; all of them liquefied gelatine. To determine the hygroscopic or absorptive properties of the material, Dr. Jakimovitch immersed portions of it into water and milk, and measured the amount of fluid absorbed under various conditions. His general conclusions are these: 1. The peat-moss examined does not represent anything like an aseptic or antiseptic dressing. 2. Being friable, and when dry, apt to break into powder, it can very easily fall out of pads and bags, soil the patient's linen, contaminate the wound, loosen the dressing, etc. 3. Being voluminous, it is inconvenient for transportation in war times, unless it is transformed into compressed tablets. 4. It possesses, however, a high absorptive power. 5. At all events, to be fit for surgical use; the moss requires a most careful treatment in order to make it fully aseptic and antiseptic.—*Voënno Meditzinsky Jürnal*, June, 1888.

II. Antipyrin as an Antiseptic in Surgical Practice. By Dr. A. F. LENEVITCH (Tobolsk, West Siberia).—In the *Internationale Klinische Rundschau*, No. 1, 1888, Dr. Neudoerfer has emphatically declared (on the ground of physiological and clinical experiments of his own) that antipyrin is a most powerful antiseptic, since it arrests putrefaction and destroys microbes. Hence he recommends a 5 per cent aqueous solution of the drug as an effective substitute for a 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid, the advantages claimed being (*a*) antipyrin does not irritate wounds; (*b*) acts as an anodyne, and (*c*) does not injure either the surgeon's hands or his instruments. Further, Neudoerfer eulogizes the drug as a dry dressing for chancres, gonorrhœa, scrofulous ophthalmia, etc. His statements have induced Dr. Lenevitch to undertake a long series of bacterioscopic experiments for studying the action of antipyrin on young (2 or 3 days') pure cultures of the staphylococcus pyogenes aureus and streptococcus pyogenes. Dr. Lenevitch's main results, briefly told, are these: 1. When preserved in the shape of a dry powder without any special sterilizing precautions, antipyrin (Lucius Bruening's) can contain living microbes of various species, including the staphylococcus aureus. 2. In a 1 or 2 per cent solution the drug somewhat retards, but by no means arrests, the growth of various microbes living in water and air. 3. A 3 per